2022-23 Annual Report

Country Food Distribution Program

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Sector Overview

Harvesting plays many roles in Nunavut society and is an important component of the northern economy.

Much of Inuit culture flows from experiences on the land and working with products of the harvest. The values and relationship developed from working on the land form the core of the Inuit Societal Values that guide and inspire the work of the Government of Nunavut.

Experience on the land is important for developing interpersonal relationships and contributing to mental health and wellbeing. Traditions surrounding country food are an anchoring force in Nunavut's culture and heavily influence community wellbeing.

Harvesting contributes to physical health as well. Country food is fresh, high quality, nutritious, and often locally procured.

Improving the ability of harvesters to provide food to communities is one of six themes in Nunavut's Food Security Strategy and Action Plan, and the department's programming is expected to have a direct impact on the rate of food insecurity in Nunavut.

One goal of the department is to improve the viability of the harvesting economy. In the current economy, very few hunters are financially rewarded for their contributions to their communities.

Our goal with the Country Food Distribution Program is to help improve the economic viability of harvesting through encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to the harvesting sector.

The program's investments in the local harvesting economy will promote and support the use of harvesting skills and community-based solutions to enhance access to nutritious food throughout the territory.

Program Report

Current Approach

The Country Food Distribution Program supports the harvesting economy through two schedules: Schedule A – Community Harvesting Transfer and Schedule B – Community Harvesting Infrastructure.

Schedule A provides applying communities annual contributions for the purpose of improving the local harvesting economy and country food distribution system. Eligible activities under this schedule include community-identified initiatives that will improve the viability of the local harvesting economy (e.g., harvester skills development). Additionally, where the utilities or maintenance costs of the local community freezer or other country food infrastructure are not covered by another Government of Nunavut department, this schedule provides an additional $10,000 for utilities, basic maintenance, and

small improvement costs per year. The department may approve utilities and maintenance costs above $10,000 if program funds are available.

Under Schedule A, each community is initially eligible for $30,000. Depending on program subscription, additional contribution agreements may be made to applying communities on or after October 1.

Schedule B provides applying communities contributions for the renovation, construction, or expansion of infrastructure that supports the harvesting economy. Examples of eligible activities under this schedule include repairs and upgrading of existing community freezers, community markets or cut and wrap facilities; design, purchase and installation of country food, community market or cut and wrap infrastructure.

Under Schedule B, the maximum funding amount for this program is $400,000 per year, and, subject to the availability of funds, up to $800,000 per project.

Spending Report: Schedule A

In 2022-23 communities used Schedule A to finance local harvests for at-risk members of the community, and to pay for community feasts or country food related events that promote community wellbeing. Schedule A was also used to support the operations and maintenance of community freezers across Nunavut.

These projects impact local food security and help to create a grassroots commercial system that will scale to take advantage of future opportunities surrounding country food. A total of 23 applications were funded to a total of $524,103.

Spending Report: Schedule B

In 2022-23, the Hunter's and Trapper's Association in Sanirajak completed their community freezer project, and the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet continued with the planning of their freezer project. Ikurraq Food Bank Society purchased their community freezer in Rankin Inlet. Total support for these three projects was $321,196.

Detailed Spending Report: 2022-23

Recipient	Project Description	Community	Amount ($)
Schedule A			
Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq	Purchase Country Food	Qikiqtarjuaq	25,000
Qajuqturvik Food Centre	Purchase Country Food	Iqaluit	30,000
Hamlet of Pangnirtung	Purchase of Country Food	Pangnirtung	30,000
Hamlet of Arviat	Firearm Safety Course	Arviat	9,625
Hamlet of Baker Lake	Purchase of Country Food for	Baker Lake	17,763
Hamlet of Baker Lake	Community Freezer Operations	Baker Lake	28,291
Hamlet of Baker Lake	Community Freezer Operations	Baker Lake	11,000
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution	Chesterfield Inlet	26,250
Hamlet of Coral Harbour	Purchase of Geese and Eggs	Coral Harbour	11,000
Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Association	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution Fish Harvest	Coral Harbour	30,000
Hamlet of Coral Harbour	Purchase of Beluga Whale	Coral Harbour	6,750
Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Association	Bowhead Whale Hunt	Rankin Inlet	7,924
Ikurraq Food Bank Society	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution Maktaaq	Rankin Inlet	25,000
Ikurraq Food Bank Society	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution Caribou and Fish	Rankin Inlet	30,000
Hamlet of Whale Cove	Community Freezer Operations	Whale Cove	24,000
Issatik Hunters and Trappers	Country Food Distribution	Whale Cove	16,500
Inuit Nunangat Ipirauttaaq Society	Purchase Country Food	Cambridge Bay	30,000
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution	Kugluktuk	30,000
Hamlet of Kugluktuk	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution	Kugluktuk	30,000
Hamlet of Kugaaruk	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution	Kugaaruk	30,000
Hamlet of Kugaaruk	Community Freezer Operations	Kugaaruk	10,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak	Community Freezer Operations	Taloyoak	35,000
Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers	Purchase of Country Food for Distribution	Taloyoak	30,000
Subtotal Schedule A			**524,103**
Schedule B			
Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers	Community Freezer	Sanirajak	355,889
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet	Community Freezer Feasibility Plan	Rankin Inlet	26,875
Ikurraq Food Bank Society	Community Freezer	Rankin Inlet	8,362
Subtotal Schedule B			**391,126**
Total CFDP			**915,229**